7. With a view to increase productivity of Passport Offices, it has been decided that a passport writer should write 50 passports per day alongwith making entries in passport register. Each official detailed in the Indexing section should screen at least 100 applications per day without overtime.

Rearranging the Priorities of our Diplomatic Missions Abroad

1681. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the plans to rearrange and re-orient the priorities of our diplomatic missions abroad keeping in view the recent changes in the international order;

(b) what steps are being taken to emphasis economic relationships and development of trade overseas, by our diplomatic missions; and

(c) what fresh guidelines have been issued in the last six months to prepare and guide our missions to better serve the need of the hour?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) The new economic policies of the Government are to a significant extent in response to the changes taking place in the global economic environment. The priorities of our missions abroad have been accordingly reoriented so that diplomacy can effectively subserve the country's economic interests. Clear cut guidelines have been given to the missions and an inter-active process has been established between the missions and this Ministry through which upto date information on changes in economic policies and procedures is provided to the missions on a continuous basis.

U. S. suggestion to Avoid Nuclear Cooperation with Iran

1682. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bush Administration has strongly urged India to avoid any form of nuclear cooperation with Iran, even under safeguards, because of lack of evidence that Tehran is genuinely committed to the exclusively peaceful uses of nuclear energy;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the state at which the proposed sale of 10 MW reactor to Iran stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) The US has expressed reservations to a number of countries, including India, on the subject of nuclear co-operation with Iran.

(b) Government have noted the position of the US.

(c) While there were some preliminary contracts, there have been no further developments in the matter.

India's Role at G-15 meeting at Caracas

1683. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister attended the G-15 meeting at Caracas, Venezuela during the last month; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the above meeting and the role played by India there at?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Summit Level Group for South-South Consultation and Cooperation (G-15) that met in Caracas from 27—29 November, 1991. adopted a Joint Communique putting forward their point of view on major international economic issues and embodying decisions to promote South-South cooperation through specific projects.

It also decided a series of follow up measures to coordinate future activities of the G-15. India articulated the position of the G-15 countries on the evolution of a consensus on ensuring that development remained at the centre of international attention and that modalities were found to place the issues of economic development and international cooperation at the centre of the multilateral agenda. This was fully reflected in the Joint Communique adopted at the Caracas Summit, copies of which are available in Parliament Library.

Deporting of AIR correspondent from Sri Lanka

1684. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sri Lanka had in a summary manner ordered the AIR correspondent Mr. A. Karuppaswamy to be out of that country, for a mistake he committed in wrongly reporting about the resignation of the Speaker of Sri Lankan Parliament, despite the fact that he immediately corrected the mistake with an apology; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government took up the matter regarding expulsion of the AIR correspondent with Sri Lanka Government through our Mission in Colombo. Government expressed regret at the expulsion order served on Mr. Karuppaswamy inspite of the fact that both AIR and Doordarshan immediately retracted their earlier report about the resignation of the Sri Lankan Speaker. Notwithstanding our demarche, the Sri Lanka Government went through with Mr. Karuppaswamy's expulsion.

Steps taken by UK Government for containing terrorism in India

1685. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of UK has recently undertaken effectively to deal with Indian-militants outfits operating from their territory by way of financing, arms supplies and organising training of militants; and

(b) if so, what specific steps are being taken by that Government to identify such elements in UK and to monitor their activities with a view to preventing them from engineering, aiding and abetting terrorism in India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The British Government has recently undertaken some effective steps to deal with Indian militant outfits operating from its territory. This is evident from the convictions, deportation and extradition orders passed in the case of some of the terrorists.

The British Prime Minister and the Minister of State in the Foreign Ministry have made categorical statements in November, 91 expressing the British determination to put down terrorism and cooperate with India.

The Government of UK has expressed its readiness to sign an Agreement with the Government of India on Cooperation in Tracing Restraint and Confiscation of the Instruments of Crime and Terrorist Funds.

A new Charities Bill is being drafted by the British Government. When this becomes an Act it will be a deterrent against misuse of places of worship for collection of funds and for terrorist activities.